

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 128

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Oscar Harvard Brown of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Oscar Harvard “Poor Boy” Brown; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, “Poor Boy” Brown became a legend in the Knoxville community as a remarkable community leader; he was exceptionally active in innumerable civic activities, for which he earned the respect of peers and superiors alike for his eloquence and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown was a vital member of the Union Labor Local 818 for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown was profoundly dedicated to local politics; he frequently spoke at City Council and County Commission meetings; he was also a best friend to former Mayor Victor Ashe, who invited him to his swearing-in ceremony in Washington, D.C., when Ashe was named Ambassador to Poland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown devoted his substantial influence to worthy causes such as having McCalla Avenue named after Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Five Point Redevelopment Project, also known as Metro Development; Dollar General’s building of a store in the Five Point area; and many other pursuits for the betterment of his community; and

WHEREAS, “Poor Boy” Brown was known for his support of the African-American community and its many institutions; he was a life member of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center and the Knoxville Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Brown was beloved by the entire community, regardless of race, for his leadership and courage; those who knew him best say he never saw the color of a man's skin and that he was always willing to fight for justice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown was an active and devout member of the Payne Avenue Baptist Church, where he served faithfully for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, "Poor Boy" Brown was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown is survived by his daughter, Mary J. Beauchaine; his son, Frederick Williams, and wife, Alice; his brother, Henry Brown, and wife, Dorothy; his nephew, Richard Crayton; his niece, Darlyne Howard; his cousins, Minnie Lanier, Willie Arnold, Patricia Cox, Ronnie Inman, Connie Whitmire, Johnetta Whitmire, Marlene Whitmire, Dennise Booker, Charles Whitman and wife Brenda, Jimmy Fleet, Shirley Kimbrough, and Tommy Whitman; eleven grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and special friends Ambassador Victor Ashe, Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Mayor Bill Haslam, and Avon Rollins and his wife, Sheryl; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Oscar Harvard "Poor Boy" Brown, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his superlative community service, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Brown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.